

**ABSTRACT**

5 A method and apparatus for printing a redundant code on an elongate article are disclosed. The apparatus includes an ink unit, at least one printing head and a controller. The printing head includes two, or three, valves, controlled by the controller. As the elongate article passes through a printing station, the controller selectively actuates the valves to release ink, and thus print the code. The two valves are preferably aligned and laterally spaced from each other in order to print the same code twice on the article.